



Appendix 2

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Social Value Policy

January 2014

1.SOCIAL VALUE POLICY

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Policy and guidance document is to define how the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 will be embedded into Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's commissioning and procurement activity.

1.2 Background and Scope

On 31st January 2013 the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 became fully operational. The Act requires the Council to consider how local economic, social and environmental wellbeing may be improved by services that are to be procured, and how procurement practice may secure these improvements.

The statutory requirements of the Act only apply to public service contracts, however in order to incorporate the good practice associated with Social Value into mainstream local commissioning and procurement practice it is the intention of the Council to embed this Policy and associated staff guidance within all commissioning and procurement activity (including Contract Management and review), wherever proportionate and practicable (for the purpose of this Policy, 'proportionate' is generally considered to be commissioning and procurement activity with an associated value exceeding £75,000). At strategic level responsibility for developing this Policy, and ensuring a Council wide consistent approach to its implementation, lies with the Council's Senior Management Team (SMT). It is the responsibility of Heads of Services to ensure the statutory requirements of the Act, and supplementary requirements of this Policy, are embedded within individual procurement exercises.

This Policy is immediately applicable to all Council employees, and wherever possible partner agencies, suppliers and service providers are strongly encouraged to adopt its principles within their own core activities.

This Policy should be read and implemented alongside the principles and requirements of;

- a) The Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy;
- b) The Council's Contract Procedure Rules;
- c) The Council's Financial Regulations;

For the purposes of this Policy and staff guidance, any organisation, agency, provider or supplier whose activity and practice contribute to the priority Social Value outcomes detailed in section 1.3 (below) will be considered to be organisations offering Social Value. The Council recognises such organisations offering Social Value can be of any size, infrastructure or locality and commits to undertake all commissioning and procurement activity in line with the fairness and transparency expectations of the Public Contract Regulations (2006) and associated EU Procurement Directives.

1.3 Social Value in the Borough

In summary the Act states;

"If a relevant authority proposes to procure or make arrangements for procuring the provision of services, or the provision of services together with the purchase or hire of goods or the carrying out of works...the authority must consider how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area and ... in conducting the process of procurement, how it might act with a view to securing that improvement." Authorities must also "consider whether to undertake any consultations as to matters to be considered" under that process.

For the purposes of the Act, this Policy, and corresponding staff guidance, the Council defines Social Value as;

The additional benefits for the Public and Communities of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council that arise over and above those immediately associated with directly purchased goods and services.

The Council considers local social, economic and environmental priorities to be those identified by the Council's updated Corporate Plan:

- Protect the good quality, consistent, value for money front line services provided to residents, particularly weekly refuse and recycling collections.
- Enhance the green environment of the Borough so that residents are able to take full advantage of it.
- Revitalise the town centres through development and by retaining free shoppers parking.
- Work with the Police to create a safer Borough where people feel comfortable and at ease.
- Listen to and delegate more issues to the three town centre forums.
- Work smarter to deliver efficiency savings required to meet continuing budget cuts
- Work with others to try to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of the borough.

Additionally, the Council commits to collating management information to monitor the number of commissioning and procurement projects that have been purposefully designed to encompass and capture Social Value priorities as detailed above.

1.4 Social Value Delivery and Benefits in the Borough

The Council will, where relevant and proportionate, seek to secure Social Value by contributing to the above outcomes through a range of its functions. This includes immediate commissioning and procurement activity, but also wider influences such as policy changes and any review of existing Contract Procedure Rules.

The Council recognises that the cashable benefits of embedding social value within commissioning activity means that every penny spent on the immediate delivery of goods and services also produces a wider benefit for both individuals and the community.

In terms of procurement, embedding Social Value requirements within the procurement process means that organisations that offer Social Value of all type and size will have an opportunity to showcase their particular strengths (e.g. apprenticeships, specialist expertise etc) in relation to the high level outcomes listed above. The Council will therefore ensure that all procurement activity offers organisations offering Social Value the chance to demonstrate such strengths within the procurement process (e.g. through dedicated Social Value method statement questions or the use of smaller lots within procurement activity).

1.5 Social Value Reporting

The Council will endeavour to create and collate Social Value Key Performance Indicators and collate evidence of wider Social Value Activity and report to the Policy, Finance and Development Committee on a regular basis.

1.6 Social Value Development and Policy Review

The Council will review the effectiveness of this Policy on a six monthly basis as part of the review of the Council's Procurement Strategy.

2. STAFF GUIDANCE

2.1 Purpose

This staff guidance should be followed to ensure the Social Value Policy detailed in section two is adhered to.

2.2 Social Value at a Glance

Social Value is to be embedded across all of the Council's commissioning and procurement activity, wherever proportionate. This means that it should be a consideration from Business Case through to contract management and review, and is applicable throughout the procurement cycle.

